

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-9 and 11-30 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claim 31 is added herein.

Therefore, claims 1-9 and 11-31 are now pending and under consideration.

Claims 3, 15, 22 and 26 are allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 12-14, 16-21, 23-25 and 27-30 are rejected.

Claims 7, 9 and 11 are objected to.

Claims 1, 16-18, 23, 28 and 30 are amended herein.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

CHANGES TO THE SPECIFICATION: NEW ABSTRACT

The specification has been reviewed in response to this Office Action. Changes have been made to the specification only to place it in preferred and better U.S. form for issuance and to resolve the Examiner's objections raised in the Office Action. No new matter has been added.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action, at page 3, claims 16-17 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth therein. The Examiner is respectfully directed to page 48 of the specification, which states that: "Further, since a formatted message like a work flow related to the business and a unformatted message for an individual receiver are displayed in a list together with the respective message types, messages with different objectives can be referred to on the same display screen together with their message types."

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

In the Office Action, at pages 4-12, claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 12, 16-21, 23-25 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Lytle in view of Trenbeath and Harp. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 recites a receiver state list with states corresponding to whether the assigned business activities have been completed respectively for all the plurality of the receivers of the interpersonal messages relating to business activities. Also, the receiver state list is prepared from the response messages returned from the plurality of receivers.

Trenbeath is concerned with a method in which a data object stored in the publication folder belonging to a publication client is transmitted to or copied into the subscription holder belonging to a subscription client for instantaneously reflecting a revision of the data object held in the publication client to that held in the subscription client.

The invention of the presently amended claims, conversely, is associated with a benefit made available not only to a manager of business activities but also, for example, to each person of a staff assigned with business activities, in which a receiver state list is displayed on any terminal apparatuses for the manager and each of the staff can grasp progress statuses of all the staff assigned with the business activities. Neither Trenbeath, Lytle, nor a combination thereof discuss or suggest a system or method able to accomplish this effect.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed patentable due at least to their dependence from allowable independent claims. These claims are also patentable due to their recitation of independently distinguishing features. For example, claim 2 recites "the sender comprises a manager managing the business activity, the receivers comprise respective staff, the interpersonal message is a message inquiring about progress of the staff concerning the business activity, and the manager receives the response messages from the staff, where the responses include completion information indicating whether the business activity has been completed". This feature is not taught or suggested by the prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM 31

New claim 30 corresponds to previous claim 11 in independent form. Claim 11 was allowable. Allowance of claim 31 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

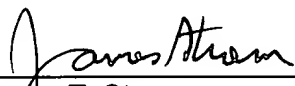
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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